



**TIM RYAN**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
17TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION & THE  
WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

October 6, 2003

RECEIVED  
OCT 14 PM 2:44  
FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

The Honorable Bryant L. VanBrakle, Secretary  
Federal Maritime Commission  
800 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20573

RE: Petition P3-03

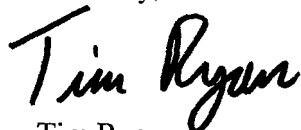
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the United Parcel Service (UPS) petition requesting exemption from the rule which prevents Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers (NVOCCs) from entering into confidential contracts with their customers. Due to the operational characteristics of UPS and recent developments within the ocean shipping marketplace, I believe UPS has presented convincing arguments for revising the regulatory scheme governing NVOCCs.

The state of the U.S. ocean shipping industry has changed dramatically since passage of the *Ocean Shipping Reform Act* (OSRA). There has been unprecedented consolidation among ocean carriers resulting in the loss of major U.S. flagged carriers. In an effort to offer customers a full range of services, these very same carriers have created vertically integrated logistics companies that now compete with NVOCCs.

I am hopeful the FMC will give the UPS petition its' utmost consideration and render an equitable decision on this matter based upon the merits of the case.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress